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1925-2025

# NALANDA MAROON AND SILVER

## GRAND CENTENNIAL GALA

MELBOURNE 2025

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# *Message from the* President

It gives me immense joy to write this message for the Maroon and Silver Night – Grand Centennial Gala 2025, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Nalanda College, as the President of the Old Nalandians Association of Australia. I am deeply honoured and privileged to hold this role at such a historic milestone.

On behalf of our association, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the 670+ distinguished guests who have joined us tonight, including Nalandians from across the globe and every corner of Australia. A very special thanks to those who have travelled from Sri Lanka, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, USA, Singapore, Qatar, and also from interstate — Queensland, Perth, Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra, and Darwin. Your presence has truly made this celebration extraordinary.

I would also like to warmly acknowledge our fellow OBAs and OGAs in Melbourne who have come together to celebrate this historic centenary dinner dance with us.

My sincere thanks go to my Centenary Team (Committee Members) for placing their trust in me to lead this remarkable year and for giving me the strength, dedication, and support needed to make this celebration possible.

We are especially grateful to our sponsors, whose generous support throughout the year has made tonight's event a resounding success:

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- Mr. Vihan Periyapperuma (96 Nalandian's in Melbourne)
- Mr. Dimuthu Wimalasena (Flight Arcade)
- Mr. Lalith Karunanayake (Best Exchange)
- Mr. Manjula Kulathunga (Australian Migration Consultants)
- Mr. Nirosh Munasinghe (Machan Nights)
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- Mr. Dulanga Yapa & Mrs. Adi Yapa (Instyle Staging)

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- Mr. Gihan Medis (NC Print Hub)
- Mr. Nalin (Epicurex)

Finally, I extend my special thanks to our Supporting crew, Raffle prize sponsors, Souvenir sponsors and Service providers including Sarith Surith & the News Band whose tireless efforts and contributions have ensured the success of this memorable celebration.

As we honour a century of Nalanda's proud legacy, let us look forward to a future filled with even greater achievements, unity, and inspiration.

මගේ නාලන්දා!

මම හැදුනු තැන, මම හදන තැන

Viraj Gamage (Aki)
Hon. President 2025
Old Nalandians Association of Australia

# *Message from the*
# Principal

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Australian Old Boys Association of Nalanda College on the occasion of your Dinner Dance 2025.

This event is not only a celebration of fellowship and friendship but also a testament to your unwavering commitment to our alma mater.

Over the years, your association has stood as a pillar of strength and support to Nalanda College. Through your generosity, dedication, and tireless efforts, you have contributed immensely towards the development of the school, enriching the educational journey of our students and preserving the proud traditions of Nalanda.

Your passion for the college, even from afar, reflects the deep bond that unites all Nalandians across the globe. It is heartening to see how your association continues to inspire the younger generation, fostering the values of discipline, integrity, and excellence that Nalanda stands for.

On behalf of the entire school community, I express my sincere gratitude for your continued support and commitment. May your Dinner Dance be a joyous and memorable occasion, strengthening the ties that bind us as one proud Nalandian family.

May the spirit of Nalanda continue to shine wherever you are.

Principal
U. D. IRAN CHAMPIKA SILVA
Nalanda College

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*Message from the*

# Social Secretary

It is with great pride and honour that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mother Nalanda on reaching 100 years of nurturing some of Sri Lanka's most talented, disciplined, and educated individuals.

For those of us living away from Sri Lanka, one of the greatest steps we could take was to form an association that unites Nalanda's sons here in Melbourne. That dream became a reality in 1991 under the leadership of Namal De Alwis and a group of dedicated Nalandians. Since then, our association has created, hosted, and celebrated countless events to keep our community strong, vibrant, and connected.

In 2025, under the leadership of Mr. Aki Viraj Gamage (Hon. President), we proudly continued that legacy through a series of memorable milestones:

- Col. Henry Steel Olcott Almsgiving – 16th February at Ripplebrook Temple, attended by over 100 devotees.
- Nalanda Business Connect 2025 – 5th February at Sandhurst Golf Club, where more than 70 leading professionals and sponsors from Australia and Sri Lanka came together.
- Henry Steel Olcott Cricket Tournament – 27th January at Livingston Reserve, Cranbourne East, with over 500 attendees.
- Ananda vs Nalanda Big Match Festival – 29th March at Livingston Reserve, Cranbourne East, drawing over 2000 participants. This carnival-style event featured cricket, rugby, kids' games, a food fair, and, for the very first time, a sister schools' Big Match between Devi Balika and Musaeus College. A highlight of the day was the over-40s cricket encounter led by Chandika Hathurusinghe and Asanka Gurusinghe, two former Sri Lanka national players.
- Ape Awurudu Ulela – 12th April at Akoonah Park, where more than 400 participants enjoyed traditional games, cultural festivities, and a joyful community gathering. We were honoured by the presence of distinguished guests including:

- Hon. Cassandra Fernando MP – Federal Labor Member
- Hon. Julian Hill MP – Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs; Assistant Minister for International Education
- Hon. Jason Wood MP – Member of the Australian House of Representatives

All these milestones have led us to tonight - the highlight of our centennial celebrations. With over 650 guests in attendance, we proudly welcome you to the Nalanda Grand Centennial Gala, one of Melbourne's most anticipated events of 2025.

As we celebrate 100 years of Mother Nalanda, let us honour the legacy that shaped us, cherish the unity that binds us, and look forward with pride to the future we will build together.

May the Nalanda spirit continue to inspire generations to come.

නාලන්දා මාතාවට උපහාරය

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ඒ උරුමය සමරමින්, අප සියලු□ දරුවන් එක් හදවතින් එකමුතුව ගයමු ඇයගේ ගෞරව ගීතයඃ

"බැන්ඳ දජා සිරි ලක්දිව මන්දිර සිරියෙනි සුදිලේ බෝසා"

මෙය නාලන්දා මෑනියන්ට පමණක් නොව, අප සියලු□ දෙනාගේ හදවත තුළ සදාකාලික අභිමානයක් ලෙස නාද වේ.

අද, අපේ නාලන්දා මාතාවගේ ශතවර්ෂ පූර්ණාභිවෘද්ධිය සිරස් නමමින් පවසන්නෙමු,

"සුභම සුභ උපන්දිනයක් වේවා, නාලන්දා මෑනියනි."

ඔබගේ දරුවන්ගේ ඒකමුතු ගෞරවය, ආදරය හා ආශිර්වාදය අත්විඳින මේ උත්කර්ෂණීය අවස්ථාව, නාලන්දා ගාථාවට අමරණීය පිටුවක් එක් කරයි.

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Amila Amarakoon
Hon. Social Secretary 2025
Old Nalandians Association of Australia

# THE CENTENARY TEAM

Old Nalandians Association of Australia 2025

# TRIPLE CREEK

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# ONAA Past Presidents

Late Namal De Alwis
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(1992, 1996 & 1997)

Late K Udayasiri
(1993, 1994, 2011 & 2012)

Lalith Rajapakse
(1995)

Asoka Mathew
(1998, 2001 to 2004)

Chandima De Alwis
(2005 & 2006)

Late Ananda Mendis
(1999 & 2000, 2007 to 2010)

Nanda Wimalajeewa
(2013 & 2014)

Kolitha Dassanyake
(2015 & 2016)

Dr Vindaya Senadheera
(2017)

Praki Perera
(2018)

Samanatha Jayatilaka
(2019 & 2020)

Pubudu Jayawardene
(2021 & 2022)

Vihan Periyapperuma
(2023)

Nandana Peiris
(2024)

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PRIME GROUP

# A brief history of Old Nalandians Association of Australia Inc.

Our inaugural meeting took place on 23rd of March 1991, attended by nineteen alumni of Nalanda College, held at Namal de alwis' residence, in North Dandenong. We were registered as Old Nalandians Association of Australia Inc. on 3rd January 1994, under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

"to foster fellowship among old Nalandians residing in Australia, while assisting Nalanda College and other worthy charities in Australia and Sri Lanka", is our mission.

Beginning with a String-hopper night at a hall in Gardenvale in February 1992, followed by a picnic and cricket match in October 1992, members have gathered on several occasions at various venues in Melbourne. These smaller gatherings, escalated to the more ambitious Annual Dance, which was first held in March 1993, at Moorabbin Town Hall. In 2016, the Dance which celebrated our Siver Jubilee was attended by more than 150 old Nalandians. This was indeed noteworthy because previously we depended on friends and associates to patronise our events. Membership drives embarked upon by Committees deserve credit. Nalandians residing in Melbourne have increased steadily which means that Annual Dances have been attended by a greater proportion of past pupils. Consequently, the Annual Dance has scaled up and this year and it is anticipated that Melbourne Pavillion will be graced by a significant proportion of ex-Nalandians.

The brotherly rivalry in cricket between Ananda and Nalanda was rekindled by a friendly soft ball match held in a carnival atmosphere at Hemmings Memorial Park in Dandenong on 29th January 1995. It has evolved, due to the efforts and initiative of members of both school Associations, to become a more orthodox annual cricket match in conjunction with a rugby encounter. The" Battle of the Maroons" is now keenly contested, for the Dr.Ranjith Hettiarachchi and Mr.Namal de Alwis trophy.

The energy imparted to planning and execution is very evident, particularly in enhancing Social activities that engage the community. Our annual Avurudu Celebration is a fine example of an attempt to introduce traditional customs to our younger generation in a fun filled atmosphere. This event has come to the attention of local representatives.

An annual alms giving to commemorate the birth of our founder Col. Henry Steel Olcott is a notable date in our calendar. We pay homage to members who have passed. Their contribution to our Association will always remain in our hearts and minds.

From its inception, the ONNA has assisted our school in various ways directly and through the agency of the OBA and other societies affiliated to the school.

Towards the planning and financing of projects the many sponsors who have stepped up, play a critical role. Their generosity is acknowledged here with deep sincerity.

Nowadays ideas are exchanged via social media. Online meetings are the norm. The current set of committee members embark on projects that increase in scale and complexity each year and our Annual Dance 2025 has been organised to celebrate the centenary of our alma mater.

Please enjoy the night with us while we thank you sincerely for your patronage.

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EMJ INFORMATION

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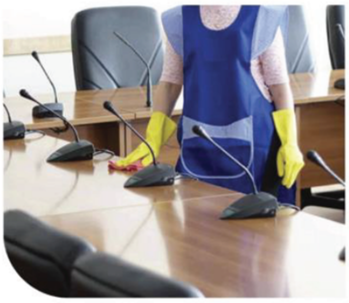

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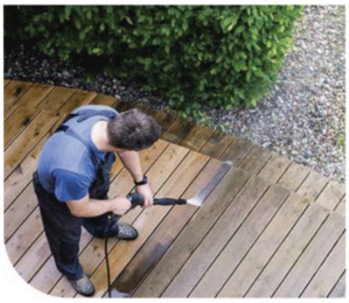

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100 YEARS
1925 TO 2025

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1925-2025

# NALANDA MAROON AND SILVER
GRAND CENTENNIAL GALA

## OUR OBJECTIVES

1 **Modern Next Gen TECH Classrooms for A/L Students**
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2 **Enhance Soft & Technical Skills**
Gearing towards future global workforce demand

3 **Drive an Innovative Culture with the Power of Gen AI**
Through a smart knowledge workforce

4 **Engage Entrepreneurship from a Young Age**
Drive innovative culture using the power of AI

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**1st November**
2025
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**Building Space**
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**Phase 2**
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**Cost**
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**Hot Desking**
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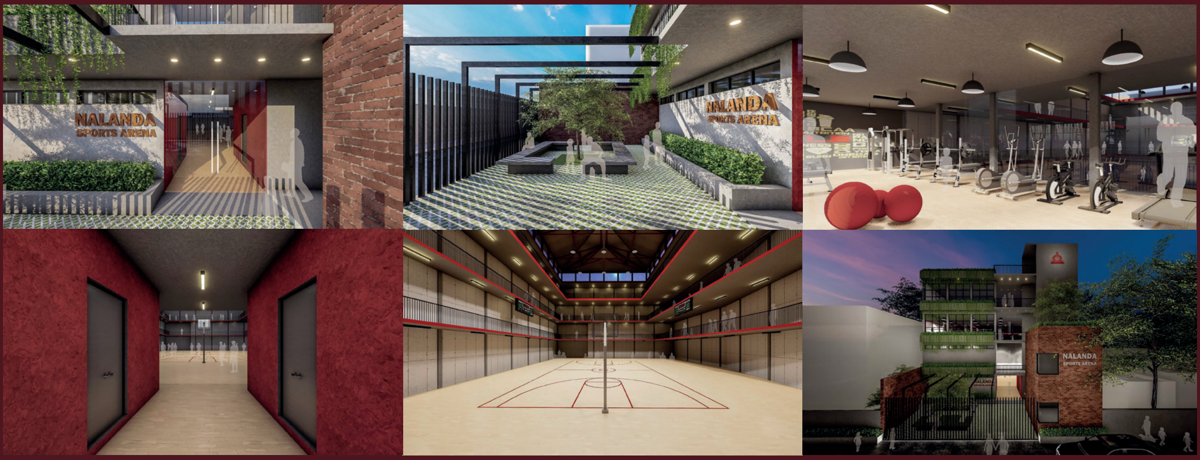
**4th July**
2024

**Start Construction**
First Stone Ceremony

**Social Impact**
Knowledge economy

## NALANDA INNOVATION CENTER

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- Liaising with key parties, including solicitors and real estate agents to ensure a smooth settlement
- Performing ongoing reviews for you after settlement to make sure you are always on a competitive loan.

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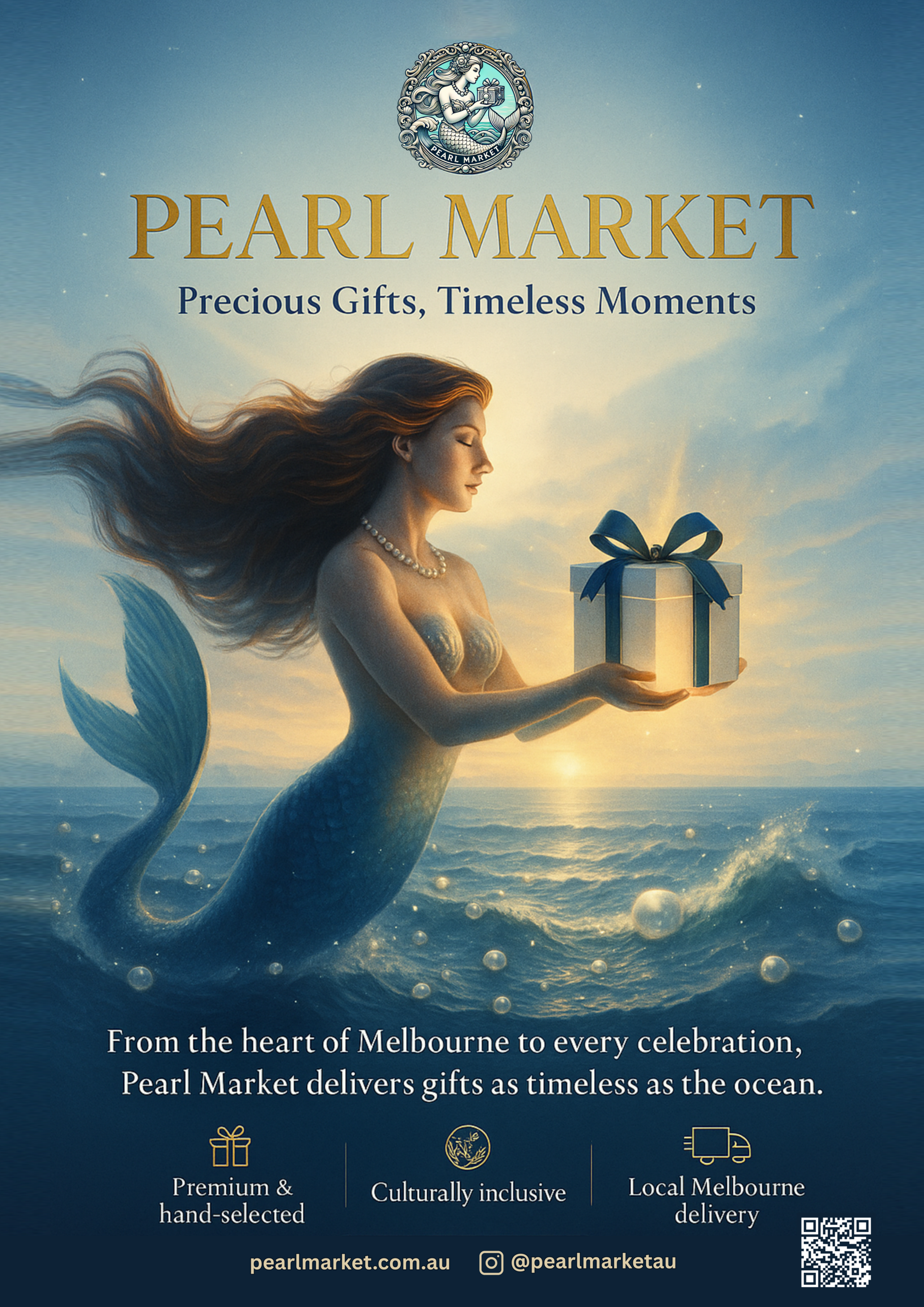
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# Battle of Maroons Flight to Colombo - 2025

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Nalanda Collage

Maroon & Silver Night

Grand Centennial Gala 2025

# MENU

## WELCOME DRINKS

## ON THE SIDE PLATE

Bread rolls and butter

## STARTER

Vegetable samosa

Lamb Kofta with Tzatziki

Devilled chickpeas.

Chilli Chicken Chips with tartare sauce,

Bite – Peri-peri Chicken with Crisp Veg.

## MAINS

Savory Ghee Rice (lump rice style) with fried curry leaves and cashew

Spicy Singapore Noodles with vegetables.

Steamed Rice (Samba) with curry leaves.

Country-style chicken curry with fried chilli.

Tempered Prawns with Kankung and Mushroom.

Roast lamb with pepper sauce.

Black pork curry with fried chillies.

Thai green Coconut Vegetable curry.

Eggplant Moju with Pineapple

Coconut cashew and pea curry.

Potato and vegetable gratin with cheese.

Pappadams | Malay pickle |

Mango Chutney | Chilli paste

## DESSERT

Fresh Fruit Salad Lankan style.

Orio cheesecake

Cream caramel

## COLD MEAT BAR STATION

Baked Fish

## SALAD STATION

Creamy Pasta and Vegetable Salad

Traditional Greek Salad with olives and feta

Seafood salad with celery and cocktail sauce.

## @ THE BAR

Red, White, Sparkling Wine

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Soft Drinks

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(T&Cs apply to some vouchers. Prices are estimates and may vary due to currency conversion or provider changes. ONAA not responsible for voucher provider T&Cs.)

## FIRST PRIZE $2500.00

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CINNAMON LIFE CITY OF DREAMS TWO NIGHTS STAY FOR COUPLE WITH BED & BREAKFAST

CINNAMON GRAND COLOMBO ONE NIGHT STAY FOR COUPLE GIFT VOUCHER

MINISTRY OF CRAB (MELBOURNE) DINNER VOUCHER

HAMPER FROM HAMPER GALORE

## SECOND PRIZE $1750.00

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MODERN TOUCH HAIR & BEAUTY SALON VOUCHER

## THIRD PRIZE $1150.00

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HAMPER FROM RAY WHITE FERNTREE GULLY

BARRACUDA (SRILANKA) SEAFOOD & GRILL DINNER VOUCHER

MACHAN NIGHTS DINNER VOUCHER

20 DOMINOS PIZZA VOUCHERS

## FOURTH PRIZE $900.00

HAMPER FROM INSTYLE STAGING

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BARRACUDA (SRILANKA) SEAFOOD & GRILL DINNER VOUCHER

WELIGAMA BAY MARRIOT RESORT & SPA – DAY OUTING VOUCHER FOR TWO ADULTS

## FIFTH PRIZE $575.00

HAMPER FROM DJ RUSH

BARRACUDA (SRILANKA) SEAFOOD & GRILL DINNER VOUCHER

MACHAN NIGHTS DINNER VOUCHER

WELIGAMA BAY MARRIOT RESORT & SPA – DAY OUTING VOUCHER FOR TWO ADULTS

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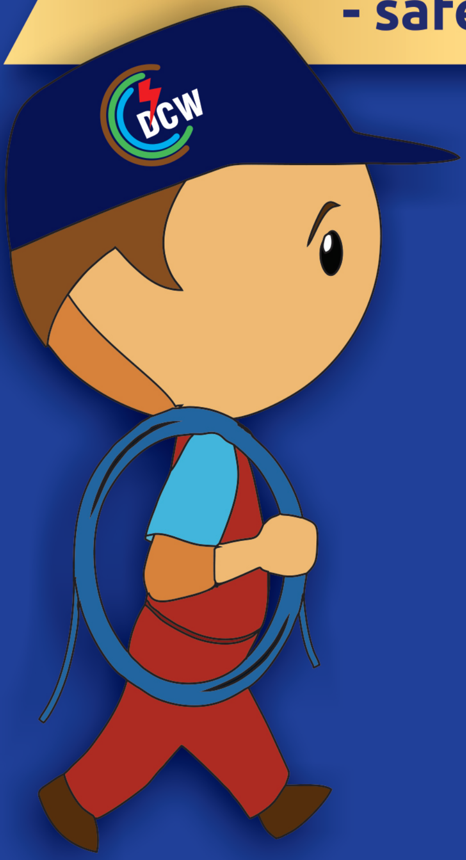


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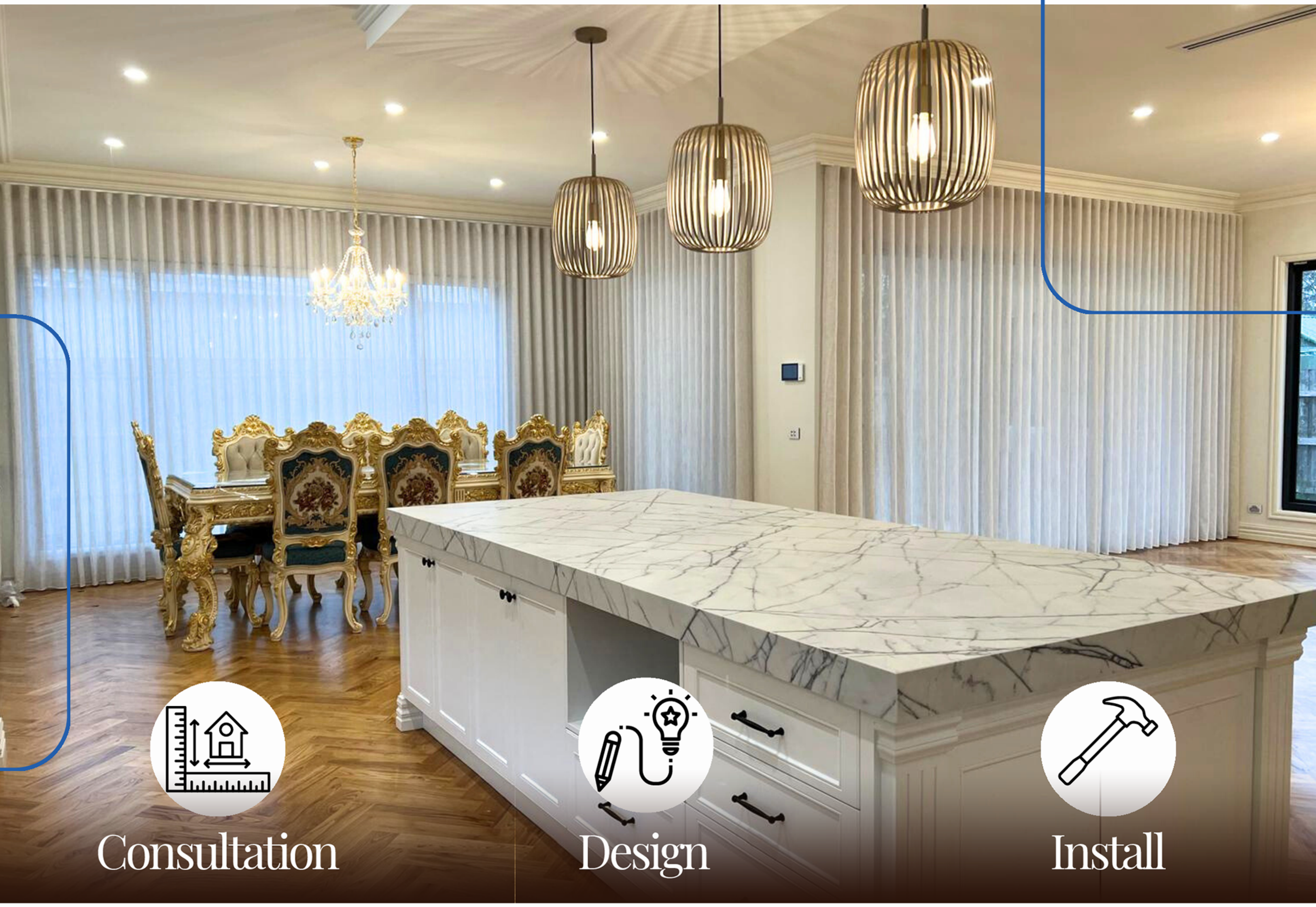


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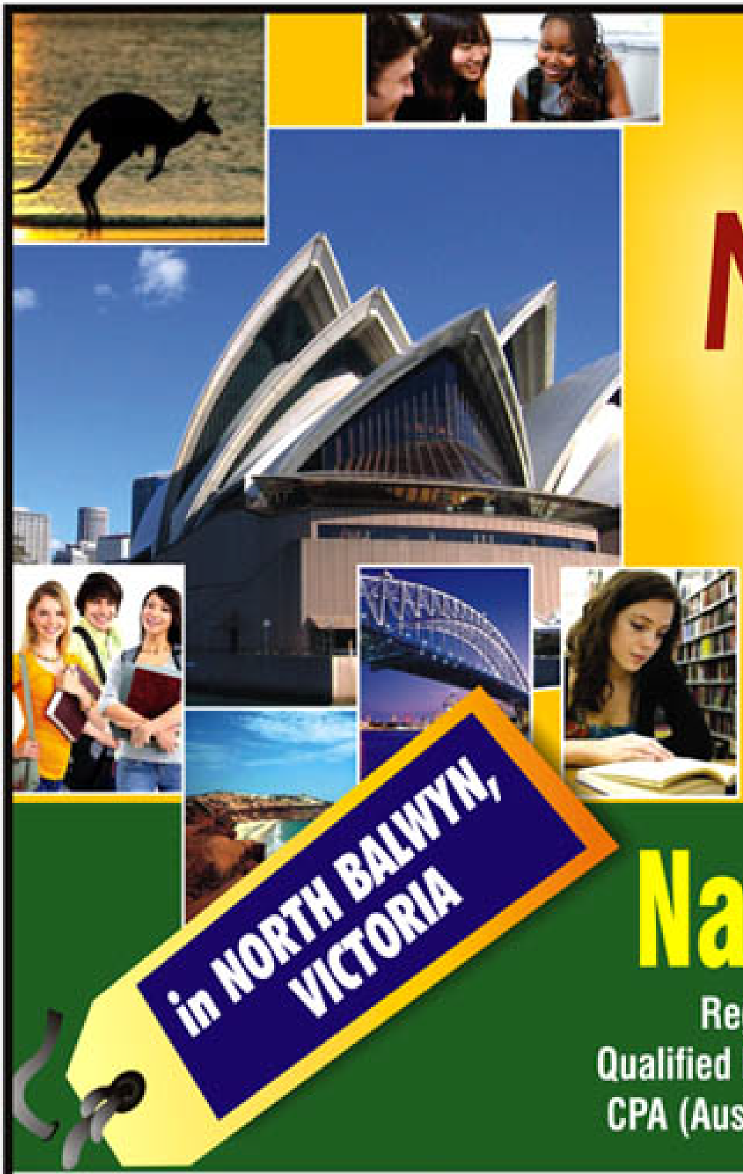


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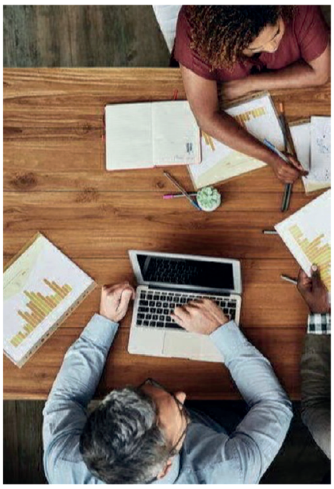

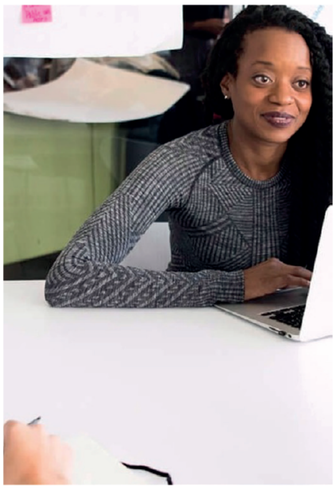

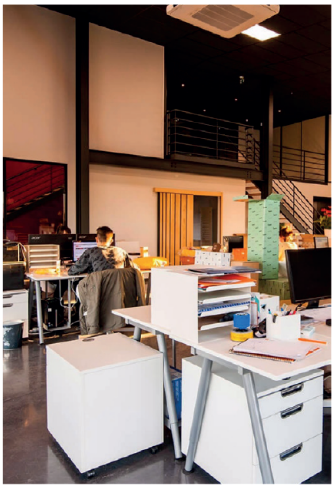

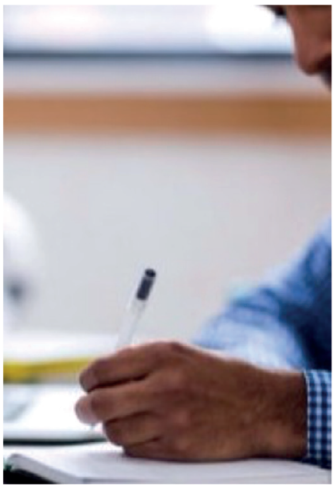

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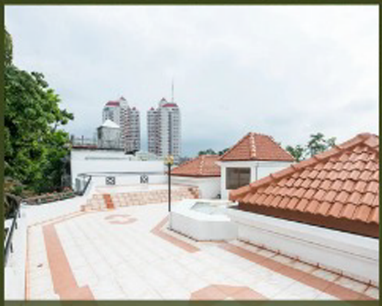

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Music Arrangements

Teshan Nanayakkara (Nalanda Anthem)

Rushan Hewawasam (Euphony Band)

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All businesses and well wishes who contributed with advertisements to this souvenir

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Dj -Rush Thambawita

Compere - Mrs. Sharon Mascarenes

Harpist - Ms. Tijana Kozacic

Dancers- Ms. Brooke Boshuizen

## Service Providers

Steve Abeysinghe – My kind of Chef

Jimmy Handley- Liquor Connection Coles Liquor

Danny Perera- Dutch Rules

Thusitha and team – Loud Production Melbourne

Gihan Medis- NC Print

Rusiru Isurujith- Illusion Entertainment

Mark- Lighting engineer

Indika Anuradha Kumarage - Design

Mihiran Rupasinghe - Website & IT

Sanka D & Dinuka - Photography

Dilhani- Dil's Delight Cakes

Hoshala & Dilki- Faux Botanic

Eddie- Big LED Screens

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Sanjalee Samarasinghe, Sanjana Samarasinghe, Aneesha Gunathilaka, Dakshini Wasundara -Usher & Raffle Girls

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Amanda- Melbourne Pavilion

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